



Achievements Honored at Awards Banquet

The Emerald Awards Banquet of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. honors a group of outstanding African American men. The recent event was held under the theme "In Service to All Mankind: A Labor of Love" with proceeds from the dinner and silent auction going to the sorority's scholarship fund, which is given to African American women who attend an accredited college and who have contributed countless hours of community service. Pictured (from left) are Rev. Wilbert G. Hardy Jr., senior pastor of Highland United Church of God in Christ; Conrad Hurdle, vice principal of Whitaker Middle School; Dr. Charles Hopson, principal of Harriet Tubman Middle School; Sandra Brame, Emerald Awards chairman; Dr. Daniel O. Bernstine, president of Portland State University; Charles Washington, chief executive office and publisher of the Portland Observer; Baba Wague Diakite, author, artist, and storyteller; and Joy Fowler, Zeta Sigma Omega chapter president.

Activist Posey Pioneers Minority Hiring

Northeast Urban Truckers enjoy partnership with Tri-Met

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For James Posey, the formation of Northeast Urban Truckers and its subsequent Tri-Met contract has been both a triumph and a vindication.

The group is a partnership of African-American trucking contractors that includes Posey, Alvin Hall and J. & R. Trucking. They provided trucks for the Interstate Light Rail project, at times provid-

ing work for as many as 30 minority and women workers. Tri-Met worked through the group to fulfill its "first source" commitment to offer jobs to local workers for the project.

"The concept wasn't new," Posey said. "This was proposed 12 years ago when the National African-American Minority Contractors was active. We were never able to sell it to the city. [Tri-Met general manager] Fred Hansen agreed to try it."

From the original group, Northeast Urban Truckers expanded to include a dozen contractors, including two Hispanics and a white woman. Others were brought in as the work requirements expanded.

"We used people from all over

everywhere to get the job done," Posey said. "It's not unlike what the white guys have done for years - you use your relatives first, then your friends, then whoever you can get."

Posey has been campaigning for years against what he sees as "the way white guys have done it for years" - in other words, what he calls institutionalized racism.

"There are studies that show there's racism in the contracting arrangement here," he said. "If you factor that in, you have to create a mechanism to deal with that."

Bill Bruce, of Stacey-Witbeck, the primary general contractor and project manager for the Interstate Light Rail said he has enjoyed working with Posey on the new

Max line construction.

"I have a lot of respect for him as a community activist, and now as a man running several small businesses," Bruce said.

Another admirer is Tri-Met General Manager Fred Hansen.

"James has been one of the strongest advocates for African-American firms," he said. "I'm honored to have been able to provide these small firms the opportunity to work on the Interstate Light Rail Project. I consider James a friend and a partner in helping Tri-Met deliver on its commitment to involve local businesses on this large project."

In addition to providing jobs, Northeast Truckers tries to give back to the community in other

ways. They have contributed to the Coalition of Black Men, the I Have A Dream Foundation, the Jefferson High School Athletic Department and Holy Redeemer School's annual Good in the Hood festival. They are seeking to provide landscaping for community schools, Posey said.

Raised in Indianapolis, Posey mustered out of the military through Fort Lewis, WA and thus was introduced to the Pacific Northwest. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for two years before settling in Portland and entering the construction trades - his father's profession - in 1981.

In his spare time, he and his daughter operate the Eliot E-Mat Cafe out of the Standard Dairy



James Posey

Building, next to Billy Reed's Restaurant. A convenience store, it also serves food and offers laundry facilities and Internet access and photocopy services.

Under an agreement with the Eliot Neighborhood Association, the store serves no alcohol.

The Tri-Met contract is a first of its kind for Posey. "The moon and stars came into the right alignment," he says.

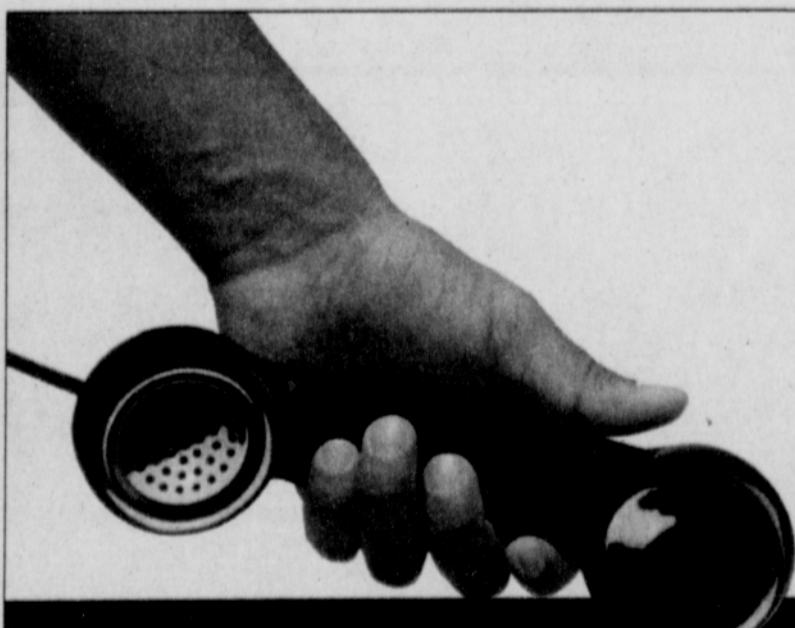
TV Series Features Local Patients

Footage filmed at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in north Portland for two episodes of the Emmy-winning series, "Trauma: Life in the ER," will air on Monday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. on The Learning Channel.

The episode, "Blindsided," features a northeast Portland mother, Rianna Velasquez, 22, and her daughter Shamiya Ibe, 3, who were hit by a truck causing long stays in the adult and pediatric intensive care units at Emanuel.

Velasquez and her daughter will receive treatment from Dr. Ameen Ramzy, who has been a trauma surgeon since, "before the age of the CT scanner." With 22 years of experience, he has the skill and bedside manner needed to help the young mother and child through their hospitalization.

Nine-year-old Jayce Buckley of north Portland was also struck by a car and will receive treatment on the show.



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Legacy Clinical Research is seeking volunteers for a study evaluating an investigational medication for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes.

If you are only taking only one medication to treat your diabetes and are 16 to 75 years old, you may be eligible to participate in this study.

Co-investigators are W. Kenneth Ward, M.D. and Alar Mirka, M.D.

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www.legacyhealth.org/research

